

Jim Rex has spent most of his adult life making a difference for the children, families, schools, and communities of South Carolina. As a high school English teacher, football coach, and higher education leader, he has made public education his life's mission.

Having served as Dean of Education at Winthrop University, as well as Coastal Carolina University, Dr. Rex knows what it takes to create a teaching force for South Carolina that is second to none. As the former President of Columbia College, he also knows the importance of preparing South Carolina's students, not just for higher education, but for the real world they face as working adults. As State Superintendent of Education, he will work to make sure that every student in South Carolina receives an education that will prepare them not just for competition within our own borders, but for competition in a global economy.

Dr. Rex wants to make South Carolina the most fairly funded, most innovative, and most choice-driven public school system in the United States. Once that happens, he believes South Carolina will be the fastest-improving public school system in the nation. He has five key goals for improving education in South Carolina's public schools:

- Accelerate innovation;
- Reform accountability to ensure success;
- Expand public school choices for parents and students;
- Promote fair and equitable school funding; and
- Elevate and reinvigorate the teaching profession.

Dr. Rex is the former Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations at the University of South Carolina, where he retired in 1999 after serving his final tenure there as Vice President of University Advancement. He is a published author and has served as a top consultant to education advocacy organizations like the National Institute of Education and Governor Dick Riley's South Carolina Educator Improvement Task Force.

But his work extends beyond the education realm. Dr. Rex has also lent his time and talents to a variety of community organizations, including serving as Chair of Clean Water South Carolina; a member of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation board of directors; and chair of the Palmetto Trail. He is also the former chair of the board of the Nurturing Center, a facility created to help abused children.

Along with his list of work and accomplishments, Dr. Rex's family and his faith remain the cornerstones of his life. The grandson of a Methodist minister, he has worked to instill the traditional values he learned from his upbringing in the four children he shares with his wife, Sue: Adam, Jeff, Nathan, and Siri.

The Rexes live on Lake Wateree in Fairfield County, South Carolina.